

To: Dierker, Carl[Dierker.Carl@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Tue 11/17/2015 12:41:23 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy, Presented by the American Coalition for Ethanol: Republicans to Vote on Climate Plan; Rallies Banned During Cop21

By [Asha Glover](#)

*We are excited to launch our newest briefing, **Morning Consult Campaigns**, which will cover the world of politics and elections. Go [here](#) to subscribe in one click.*

Today's Washington Brief

- Republicans could vote today to repeal an integral part of the Obama Administration's climate plan—rules cutting greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) and other Republican leaders are also planning to travel to Paris to personally refute any agreements at the Paris climate talks. ([The Guardian](#))
- Environmental and climate change activists are urging senators to protect the Clean Power Plan as they prepare to vote on Congressional Review Act resolutions offered by Republicans. Green groups sent a letter to senators Monday and have launched a radio ads to discourage lawmakers from dismantling the plan. ([The Hill](#))
- Brad Ramsey, the utility trade association's general counsel, has come a long way from being a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission employee to policing it. It's a busy time for Ramsey, as the Clean Power Plan is aimed at reducing the carbon emissions his industry produces. ([Morning Consult](#))

Today's Business Brief

- Concerts have been cancelled and marches have been banned at the upcoming COP 21 climate talks in Paris following terror attacks in France last Friday. France's Prime Minister Manuel Valls said the event will "be reduced to negotiations" only. ([Reuters](#))
- Natural gas prices rose Monday after forecasts predicted temperature drops. Gas demand has been low due to mild November weather. ([Wall Street Journal](#))
- Volkswagen is rolling out full-page ads in over 30 U.S. newspapers apologizing for the recent emissions scandals. The company is also offering \$500 Visa gift cards to car owners whose resale value depreciated. ([The Verge](#))

Today's Chart Review

Will Solar Energy Plummet if the Investment Tax Credit Fades Away?
The Wall Street Journal

Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

Tuesday

The American Council for Capital Formation holds a briefing on energy exports @ 8:30 a.m.

Environmental Law Institute holds energy symposium @ 10 a.m.

Environmental Law Institute holds discussion with EPA enforcer @ 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday

The Environmental Protection Agency holds a webinar on climate security and foreign policy @ 1:15 p.m.

Thursday

ICF International holds discussion on the Paris climate talks @ 8 a.m.

The Environmental Protection Agency holds webinar on U.S. climate preparedness @ 12 p.m.

The Environmental Law Institute holds a discussion on Toxic Substances Control Act reform @ 12 p.m.

Friday

No events scheduled.

General

Brad Ramsey, Loquacious Lawyer for State Utilities
Rob Kunzig, Morning Consult

As the utility trade association's general counsel, these are interesting times for Brad Ramsey. His members are busy accounting for the Clean Power Plan, a sweeping initiative that aims to reduce carbon emissions from power plants, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ever-contentious rulemaking.

Volkswagon Apologizes for Emissions Scandal With Full-Page Ad In Dozens of Papers

Dante D'Orazio, The Verge

Volkswagen is apologizing. The company's American arm rolled out its first ad campaign today addressing the emissions scandals that have rocked the company over the past couple of months. The understated full-page ad, published in over 30 newspapers across the US today, says in large type: "We're working to make things right."

France to Limit U.N. Climate Summit to Core Talks, Ban Rallies: PM **John Irish, Reuters**

France will limit a U.N. climate summit in Paris starting in two weeks' time to core negotiations and cancel planned marches and concerts after the attacks that killed 129 people, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Monday. He said no foreign leaders had asked France to postpone the Nov 30-Dec 11 summit, which aims to map out a global accord to limit greenhouse gas emissions, a move which would amount to "abdicating to the terrorists."

Green Groups Re-Think Massive Paris Climate Attacks **Bate Felix, Reuters**

A massive demonstration planned by environmental activists for the eve of this month's U.N. climate summit in Paris is in doubt as organizers weigh the security risks, and the propriety, of gathering in huge numbers in a city where attacks killed 129 people.

The Clean Energy Revolution in Three (or Four) Charts **Tina Casey, Clean Technica**

The latest Revolution Now is also a not so thinly veiled Dear John letter to the fossil fuel industry in general and in particular, to ExxonMobil. The New York State Attorney General has already deployed state law to go after oil giant ExxonMobil for misleading investors, and the new report could be part of an effort to build public support for parallel action by the US Department of Justice.

VW Fraud Reveals EPA's Weaknesses, Automakers Say **Kyle Feldscher, Washington Examiner**

The Volkswagen emissions cheating scandal exposed possible shortcomings in the Environmental Protection Agency's emissions tests, which the auto industry says do not accurately represent real-world driving conditions and modern vehicles.

Energy Transfer Partners Speeds Up Completion of Drop-downs to Sunoco **Anne Steele, Wall Street Journal**

Energy Transfer Partners LP said it would sell its remaining Sunoco-related retail and wholesale holdings in a \$2.23 billion drop-down deal to Sunoco LP, another company

in the Energy Transfer family. The move completes a total of \$5.7 billion of so-called drop-down transactions.

Groups Press Feds to Overhaul GMO Regulations

Lydia Wheeler, The Hill

Environment and food safety groups are pushing the Obama administration to overhaul the nation's regulations for genetically engineered (GE) plants and animals. The Center for Food Safety, Friends of the Earth, Pesticide Action Network and Water Watch said Monday it had sent comments to President Obama and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asking for mandatory, GE-specific regulation; protections from increased pesticide use; protections for non-GE farmers; mandatory safety testing; and mandatory labeling of foods that contain genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Big Issues Left for Legislature: DPS and Energy Reform

Kathleen Gray, Detroit Free Press

Legislation that will help the Detroit Public Schools emerge from years of declining enrollments and mushrooming debt is on the agenda, as well as comprehensive reform of energy policy in the state.

U.S. Stocks Rally, Led by Energy Sector

Corrie Driebush and Tommy Stubbington, Wall Street Journal

Energy shares led the Dow industrials higher by nearly 238 points following their first week of losses in nearly two months. Haven assets such as gold and U.S. Treasuries got a minor boost, and stocks that benefit from tourism like luxury goods and airlines were hurt, but there was no sign of a broad flight from risk.

Oil & Natural Gas

Oil Rebounds Amid Tensions After Paris Attacks

Edward McAllister and Karolin Schaps, Reuters

Oil prices rose on Monday after strong losses last week, as Friday's deadly attacks in Paris raised geopolitical tensions that some said could threaten global oil supply. France carried out air strikes overnight in Syria against the Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks, and on Monday called on the United States and Russia to join a global coalition to overcome the group.

Natural Gas Rises on Weather Forecast

Nicole Friedman, Wall Street Journal

Natural gas prices rose Monday as forecasts called for colder temperatures than

previously expected, boosting demand expectations. Mild weather in recent weeks has reduced demand for the heating fuel, pushing stockpiles of natural gas in the U.S. to a record high.

Struggling U.S. Oil Producers Get Credit Lifeline Amid Downturn

Edward McAllister, Reuters

An autumn credit crunch was expected to hit many independent U.S. oil producers, starving the industry of billions of dollars and further denting company budgets and drilling plans. But banks that adjust their loans to energy companies every six months based on the oil price and volumes of reserves were more lenient than many expected this time, leaving producers with more cash for drilling and allowing them to supply more oil to a market already flush with excess crude.

How Liquefied Petroleum Gas Saves Lives and Can Save More

Tom Morgan, Forbes

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and other hydrocarbon products continue to save lives and could save many more if made available to more people.

Oil Group: Regulators Are Ignoring Natural Gas' Impact on Emissions

Devin Henry, The Hill

The oil and gas lobby says the Obama administration is ignoring the role of natural gas in reducing carbon emissions around the country. In a report issued Monday, the American Petroleum Institute noted that the United States has done more to reduce its carbon emissions than other developed nations and attributed that decrease to the abundance of American natural gas.

Utilities & Infrastructure

Ohio Power Companies, Consumers Spar Over Paying for Spare Electricity

Cassandra Sweet, Wall Street Journal

American Electric Power Co. and FirstEnergy Corp. say they don't make enough money selling the power from seven old, coal-fired generating stations and one nuclear plant in their home state of Ohio. They have set off a firestorm of criticism by proposing that consumers and businesses in the state should cover the cost of operating the plants.

Why Clean Energy Advocates Are Challenging SCE's Historic Storage Buy

Peter Maloney, Utility Dive

While it was first celebrated as a high water mark for energy storage, Southern California Edison's (SCE) most recent capacity planning proposal has attracted

opposition from some renewables and efficiency advocates for another resource it plans to procure — natural gas generation.

Renewables

Changing Net Metering Policies Being Studied in Over Half of US States

Glenn Myers, Clean Technica

Changes to solar net metering policies are being studied or have been enacted in more than half of the states in this nation, states the N.C. Clean Energy Technology Center's latest "50 States of Solar" report. The NC Clean Energy Technology Center is a UNC System-chartered Public Service Center administered by the College of Engineering at North Carolina State University.

Local Bases on Board for Renewable Energy Project

Marketta Davis, Pensacola News Journal

Gulf Power and local military officials believe their partnership to build solar facilities on the bases will benefit the community by distributing clean, renewable power. Gulf Power has signed a 37-year lease with the Navy, including Holley and Saufley Navy outlying landing fields, and Whiting Field and Pensacola naval air stations, for the purpose of developing two large solar electric generating facilities.

Connecticut State Government Failing to Use Solar to Cut Electricity Costs

Gregory B. Hladky, Hartford Courant

Connecticut state government has, by all accounts, done a great job encouraging homeowners, businesses and municipalities to "go solar." What the state hasn't done is use solar power to cut its own \$40 million-a-year electric bill.

Determining the Value of Solar Is More Important Than Ever

Jesse Grossman, Greentech Media

America's solar industry is hoping for an attractive post-2016 economic outlook by pushing to extend the federal Investment Tax Credit while strengthening state-level regulations and policies. But our regulatory priorities shouldn't overlook an equally important economic issue: properly assessing the value of solar generation.

Coal

Clean Power Plan Blocks View of Real Trouble Dogging Coal Companies

Elizabeth Shogren, Denver Post

There's no question that the president's Clean Power Plan and his other air pollution

regulations cloud the future of the industry. But coal's bleak present has much more to do with other factors, chief among them the low price of natural gas and bad business decisions that the country's biggest coal companies made in recent years.

Nuclear

Plan to Close Nuclear Plant in Upstate New York Rattles Its Neighbors

Patrick McGeehan, New York Times

The huge concrete cooling tower standing near the shore of Lake Ontario might give chills to visitors catching a first glimpse of it. But to many residents of this semirural section of Oswego County, the two nuclear power plants in town have been a comforting presence.

State Could Impose MOX Fines for Upcoming Missed Milestones at SRS

Derrek Asberry, Aiken Standard

South Carolina may soon have to decide if it will fine the Department of Energy \$1 million a day for missing milestones at the Savannah River Site's MOX facility.

Goal of the Manhattan Project Historical Park Is to 'Remember and Learn From' Nation's Nuclear Achievements

Ralph Vartabedian, Los Angeles Times

The Manhattan Project National Historical Park would span three key parts of U.S. atomic bomb development: the Hanford Site in Washington, where plutonium was manufactured; Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, where the bomb was designed and assembled; and Y-12, where uranium was separated. The New Mexico and Tennessee sites are still part of the active U.S. nuclear weapons complex.

Climate

Paris Climate Deal Meeting Still On As Republican Leaders Register Opposition

Suzanne Goldenberg, The Guardian

Republicans in Congress could vote as early as this week to repeal the main pillar of Obama's climate plan – which would send the message to Paris that the president faces strong opposition to his agenda. Republican leaders, including James Inhofe of Oklahoma – who notoriously once threw a snowball in the Senate in an attempt to disprove climate change – are also planning to travel to Paris to register their opposition to a global climate deal.

Divisions Remain Ahead of Paris Climate Talks

Gabriele Steinhauser, Wall Street Journal

Discussions here among some of the world's leading nations point to deep divisions on how to tackle climate change—just two weeks before almost 200 countries meet in Paris in an effort to seal a global climate deal. More than 160 governments have already submitted national plans for cutting greenhouse-gas emissions and leaders in the European Union, as well as President Barack Obama, have been pushing for a strong agreement.

UN Chief Urges 'Faster' Action on Climate Change

Devin Henry, The Hill

The head of the United Nations urged world leaders this week to go “much farther and much faster” with their plans to combat climate change. Speaking to G20 leaders in Turkey on Sunday, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon acknowledged the carbon emissions proposals submitted ahead of an international climate conference in Paris won't be enough to effectively slow down the pace of global warming.

Climate Scientists to be Grilled by Congressional Investigators, But Their E-mails Are Still Off-Limits

Lisa Rein, Washington Post

Scientists and top officials from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have agreed to start interviews akin to depositions this week with House investigators, who are demanding to know their internal deliberations on a groundbreaking climate change study.

Senate Tees Up Votes Against Obama's Climate Rules

Timothy Cama, The Hill

The Senate will vote as early as this week to block President Obama's climate change rules for power plants. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) announced Monday that the resolutions, one of which he sponsors, were placed on the Senate floor calendar, lining up a vote soon.

U.S., Canadian Leaders to Discuss Climate Change and Energy: White House

Lisa Lambert and Roberta Rampton, Reuters

The senior adviser to U.S. President Barack Obama on climate, Brian Deese, will meet with Canadian leaders about energy and climate change in Ottawa, Canada, on Monday, according to the White House.

The Hidden Factor That Could Complicate U.S. Plans to Cut Carbon Emissions

Chris Mooney, Washington Post

There are other major players involved in putting carbon in the atmosphere and removing it, and a recent piece of research shows how one of them — forests —

could make it harder for the United States to reach its express goal of reducing emissions by 26 to 28 percent below their 2005 levels by the year 2025. That's the same pledge the country's negotiators will take to Paris later this month for a much anticipated global climate meeting.

A Message from the American Coalition for Ethanol:

The Renewable Fuel Standard is a win-win for the environment and American communities. It spurred the rise of clean fuels that reduce carbon emissions and drive economic development in places that need it the most. By giving entrepreneurs from rural America a seat at the environmental table, the RFS sparks sustainable technologies that create opportunities for everyone. That's why the administration should feel proud to implement the RFS to ensure further innovation. Learn more at ethanol.org.

Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

The Role of Biomass in Achieving Clean Power Plan Goals – A 2016 Workshop to Foster a Constructive Discussion

Janet McCabe, Environmental Protection Agency Blog

Since issuing the Clean Power Plan (CPP), states and stakeholders have shown a strong interest in the role biomass can play in state plans to reduce carbon emissions under the rule. Many states are seeking to better understand how maintaining and building on their existing approaches to sound carbon- and greenhouse gas (GHG)-beneficial forestry and land management practices can yield biomass resources that will help them meet their CPP goals, and how to craft plans that will be federally approvable under the final CPP guidelines.

Wind Energy in Texas

John Hall, New York Times

When utilities in the heart of the "oil patch" are generating so much wind energy that they can give power away, it is evident that a cleaner energy future is on the horizon. And Texas power companies clearly see the competitive advantage in capitalizing on the state's wealth of homegrown, new energy resources.

EPA's Clean Power Plan Will Cost Colorado Consumers and Stunt the State's Growth

Bill Ray, Denver Business Journal

Wide-ranging voices—in politics, in business, and those of consumer advocates like our coalition—have been warning of the potentially crippling costs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's soon-to-be-implemented Clean Power Plan. Its ripple effects will be felt nationwide, and Colorado is by all indications squarely in

harm's way.

Why Closing Nuclear Power Plants Is Short-Sighted

Christine Todd Whitman, Wall Street Journal

Following the announcement that the Pilgrim nuclear-energy facility outside of Boston will close by 2019, it is critical for decision makers to reassess how electricity markets value the clean electricity produced by nuclear energy. The early retirement of well-operated nuclear-energy facilities brings with it a huge cost—both to local economies and the environment.

Why Oil Could Rally Big in 2016

Steven Kopits, CNBC

The BOE bases this analysis on the co-movement of oil prices with those of other commodities. If oil prices drop simultaneously with other commodity prices, then presumably some common cause is the source. The supply of a range of commodities is unlikely to balloon all at the same time. Therefore, if supply is not the cause, then weak demand is likely to blame.

Why the U.S. Should Not Want Energy Independence

Jason Bordoff, Wall Street Journal

In the midst of the 1973 Arab oil embargo, President Richard Nixon launched “Project Independence” to make the U.S. energy self-sufficient by 1980. Every president since has also promised to make the U.S. energy independent. Around the world, too, a desire for energy security motivates calls to reduce imports from sources perceived as unreliable or unstable, and to become more disconnected from the global market.

Florida Clean Power: The Missing Link

Philip Warburg, Miami Herald

Florida may be touted as the Sunshine State, but you wouldn't know it by looking at its meager use of solar electricity. Florida may be touted as the Sunshine State, but you wouldn't know it by looking at its meager use of solar electricity.

A Message from the American Coalition for Ethanol:

Spurred on by a sense of opportunity in the Renewable Fuel Standard, scientists and engineers at Quad County Corn Processors in Northwest Iowa developed a technology to produce cellulosic biofuel from leftover fiber from corn.

Just like that, one harvest can now produce both conventional and cellulosic biofuel — but with less energy and a better emissions profile.

That makes the RFS a win for the environment and the rural economy. Learn more at

ethanol.org.

Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

Revolution Now: The Future Arrives for Five Clean Energy Technologies – 2015 Update

U.S. Department of Energy

In 2013, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released the Revolution Now report, highlighting four transformational technologies: land-based wind power, silicon photovoltaic (PV) solar modules, light-emitting diodes (LEDs), and electric vehicles (EVs). That study and its 2014 update showed how dramatic reductions in cost are driving a surge in consumer, industrial, and commercial adoption for these clean energy technologies—as well as yearly progress.

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